

with the Caribbean region, particularly in the context of safety and security, development and crime," Clarke said. "As far as I know, there hasn't been this level of recognition given to the responsibility and the type of bridge building that need to take place between the United States and the Caricom nations."

The resolution doesn't have the force of law but expresses the mood of the chamber. It was approved about a week ago and Clarke expects it to open the door to assistance from Washington at a crucial time.

"Typically when the House passes a resolution of this type, the State Department is usually close behind it in terms of its role and responsibility," she said. "We expect support, not only in the House and the Senate but in the executive branch, the Administration. Definitely, it could influence the flow of funds and technical support to the Caribbean."

Dr. Griffith, the author of a number of books on Caribbean security, said that two economic pillars of the region, tourism and agriculture were under threat from crime and violence because they have the potential to raise doubts about people's personal safety and their foreign direct investment.

Of course, there is oil in Trinidad and Tobago, bauxite in Jamaica and Guyana but as a region tourism and agriculture define the economic landscape of the Caribbean," he said. "Crime and security jeopardize those in dramatic ways. Jamaica is unique in a sense, but I am not sure for how long to have had a significant crime and security challenge but at the same time it has been doing fairly well in tourism. The general economic livelihood of the Caribbean very much revolves around having relative peace and stability."

As he sees it, the problem comes down to the degree of crime, the extent of drug trafficking and the prevalence and availability of weapons, all of which can undermine "the basic tenets" that influence the flow of long-term foreign investment in the various island-nations and coastal states.

The York College Provost warned that the negative news media coverage of the Caribbean, portraying it as a major center for crime and violence could make the various destinations far less appealing to tourists than at any other time.

"It raises the question if tourists are going to want to come to a region that is getting negative press day-in-and-day-out," he asked. "When someone in Europe sees a story about a particular country, he or she would see the Caribbean as a whole, not the individual destination. The region's long-term survivability makes crime and violence a clear and present danger."

He gave the heads of government good marks for confronting the problem but warned that many of the ideas approved in Port of Spain, including special crime fighting and management teams; improved training; introduction of sophisticated equipment; and the availability of mobile law enforcement units would take considerable amounts of financial resources and time to get off the ground. The upshot: moving the plans from the drawing board to reality would result in a time lag that the region could ill-afford.

"The challenge becomes translating the statement into practical reality," was the way Dr. Griffith, who advises western hemisphere and other international institutions on security question, put it. "The statement's truisms undermine some of the practical dimensions involved."

For instance, the decision to establish counter-kidnapping units and response teams and negotiators would "take a while to plan and deliver" and would involve foreign countries and quite a lot of money.

"The training necessary for them and the recruitment that's also necessary would require going beyond the Caribbean boundaries, getting the money to do that. I am not sure that the legislation to give effect to the proposals exists in the Caribbean," he added. "That would mean making legislative accommodations domestically to accommodate some of these worth

them on their dedicated service and I humbly welcome these men and their families to Kansas City.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ELOISE HAGAN FOR HER SERVICE WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Eloise Hagan began volunteering with the Red Cross in 1957; and Whereas, Eloise Hagan is 99 years young; and

Whereas, she was recognized for her more than 50 years of volunteer service during the American Red Cross of Knox County's 2008 Volunteer Awards program; and

Whereas, Eloise Hagan continues to exemplify a special dedication to service and community; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Eloise Hagan for her contributions to her community and country.

IN HONOR OF JUDY MARTIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Judy Martin, and in recognition of her dedication, advocacy, and promotion of community building in the Greater Cleveland Area. Judy Martin is this year's honoree of the Sixth Annual Beauty and Talent Pageant, presented by the Cleveland Joint Elks' Beauty and Talent Committee.

Judy, a Cleveland resident for over forty years, has been a tireless advocate of non-violence in the Greater Cleveland Area. Following the tragic death of her son in 1994, she became an activist and supporter of Black on Black Crime, Inc; working with the organization as their Secretary and Treasurer. Judy founded her own organization to support others who have also lost loved ones through violence, Survivors/Victims of Tragedy, Inc. She was instrumental in creating the Memorial Wall/Wall of Sorrows on display in East Cleveland, obtaining ninety-eight percent of the funds necessary to build the wall. The wall serves as a memorial for all children who have been victims of crime in Cleveland since 1990 and she continues working with the community in creating a Memorial Reflection Garden.

Judy Martin is also an advocate of Missing Children and Adults, a member of the Greater Cleveland Million Moms, part of the Brady Campaign to prevent gun violence, and a member of several other organizations including the Cleveland Joint Elks Education Committee, the Pioneer Fez Club, and the Veterans Department.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Judy Martin for her outstanding and tireless efforts as an advocate of non-violence and promotion of community building in

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: June 17, 2008: rollcall vote No. 414, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended—H.R. 2964—To amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to treat nonhuman primates as prohibited wildlife species under that Act, to make corrections in the provisions relating to captive wildlife offenses under that Act, and for other purposes, I would have voted "nay"; rollcall vote No. 415, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended—H.R. 3702—Montana Cemetery Act of 2007—I would have voted "aye"; rollcall vote No. 416, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended—H. Res. 1275—Honoring the life of Timothy John Russert, Jr., public servant, political analyst, and author—I would have voted "aye."

U.S. ARMY FOURTH INFANTRY DIVISION LRRP/LRP/HIGHLAND RANGERS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I welcome the courageous and honorable men of the U.S. Army Fourth Infantry Division Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol, Company E 58th Infantry Long Range Patrol, and Company K 75th Infantry to their 40th Anniversary Reunion in Kansas City, Missouri. These brave men and their families will finally receive the honor they have deserved for so long.

This exceptional group began in Vietnam with the 4th Infantry Division LRRPs formed within the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Brigades in 1966 and 1967. On July 5th, 1968, these LRRPs were then placed under the control of Captain Ruben H. Siverling, Commander of E Company 58th Infantry (LRP). Captain Siverling described the greatness of these brave men by stating: "I have been recognized and honored for several various degrees of accomplishment in my journey through life. None are more satisfying or humbling than to have served under extreme combat as the last commander of E 58th (LRP) and the first commander of Company K 75th Rangers."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a very elite unit of U.S. Army Vietnam veterans, and to welcome them to their 40th Anniversary Reunion. These men, like so many others, have sacrificed so much to protect our Nation's freedom. I congratulate